Director makes a determination, if necessary.

§ 2422.25 When does the Region tally the ballots?

- (a) Tallying the ballots. When the election is concluded, the Regional Director will tally the ballots.
- (b) Service of the tally. When the tally is completed, the Regional Director will serve the tally of ballots on the parties in accordance with the election agreement or direction of election.
- (c) Valid ballots cast. Representation will be determined by the majority of the valid ballots cast.

§ 2422.26 How are objections to the election processed?

- (a) Filing objections to the election. Any party may file objections to the procedural conduct of the election or to conduct that may have improperly affected the results of the election. A party must file an objection and the Regional Director must receive it within five (5) days after the tally of ballots has been served. Any objections must be timely regardless of whether the challenged ballots are sufficient in number to affect the results of the election. The objections must be supported by clear and concise reasons. A party must file an original and two (2) copies of the objections.
- (b) Supporting evidence. The objecting party must file evidence, including signed statements, documents, and other materials supporting the objections, with the Regional Director within ten (10) days after the party files the objections.

§ 2422.27 How does the Region address determinative challenged ballots and objections?

- (a) Investigation. The Regional Director investigates objections and/or determinative challenged ballots that are sufficient in number to affect the results of the election.
- (b) Burden of proof. An objecting party bears the burden of proof on objections by a preponderance of the evidence. However, no party bears the burden of proof on challenged ballots.
- (c) Regional Director action. After investigation, the Regional Director

takes appropriate action consistent with §2422.30.

- (d) Consolidated hearing on objections and/or determinative challenged ballots and an unfair labor practice hearing. When appropriate, and under §2422.33, a Regional Director may consolidate objections and/or determinative challenged ballots with an unfair labor practice hearing. An Administrative Law Judge conducts these consolidated hearings, except the following provisions do not apply:
- (1) Sections 2423.18 and 2423.19(j) of this subchapter concerning the burden of proof and settlement conferences are not applicable:
- (2) The Administrative Law Judge may not recommend remedial action to be taken or notices to be posted as provided by §2423.26(a) of this subchapter.
- (e) Party exceptions filed with the Authority. A party may file exceptions and related submissions with the Authority, and the Authority then issues a decision under part 2423 of this chapter.

§ 2422.28 When is a runoff election required?

- (a) When a runoff may be held. A runoff election is required in an election involving at least three (3) choices, one of which is "no union" or "neither," when no choice receives a majority of the valid ballots cast. However, a runoff may not be held until the Regional Director has ruled on objections to the election and determinative challenged ballots.
- (b) Eligibility. Employees who were eligible to vote in the original election and who are also eligible on the date of the runoff election may vote in the runoff election.
- (c) *Ballot*. The ballot in the runoff election will provide for a selection between the two choices receiving the highest and second highest number of votes in the election.

§ 2422.29 How does the Region address an inconclusive election?

- (a) *Inconclusive elections*. An inconclusive election is one where challenged ballots are not sufficient to affect the outcome of the election and one of the following occurs:
- (1) The ballot provides for at least three (3) choices, one of which is "no